

CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): A user interface for a computing device, said interface comprising:

a) ~~a graphical representation of~~ a plurality of portals containing content, wherein said plurality of portals are arranged in a three dimensional space graphical representation for display to a user, and wherein for each of said plurality of portals, an application that permits user interaction with the content contained therein is associated therewith; and

b) ~~a plurality of sensory cue displayed in at least one of said portals cues,~~ wherein for each of said plurality of portals, a sensory cue is displayed therein that provides a cue to the content contained therein ~~to facilitate recognition by a user of an application associated with said sensory cue.~~

2. (currently amended): The interface of claim 1 further comprising user input means permitting said user to rotate said interface about a plurality of axes, and at least one of a rotational constraint means and a control means for controlling the rotation of said interface.

Claims 3-13: (cancelled).

14. (original): The interface of claim 1, wherein said interface is projected onto a two-dimensional display.

Claim 15: (cancelled).

16. (currently amended): A computer device for displaying a three dimensional user interface, said device comprising means for displaying said the interface as claimed in claim 14, ~~said interface comprising: a graphic representation of a plurality of portals arranged in a three dimensional space; and a sensory cue displayed in at least~~

~~one of said portals to facilitate recognition by a user of an application associated with said sensory cue.~~

Claims 17-25: (cancelled).

26. (original): The interface of claim 1 further comprising means for selecting a portal to be made active from said plurality of portals, wherein the portal to be selected is closest to a pre-determined reference point.

27. (original): The interface of claim 26 wherein said selected portal is positioned proximate the middle of a screen and substantially upright.

28. (currently amended): The interface of claim 2, said ~~further comprising~~ rotational constraint means for preventing said interface from rotating to an upside-down position.

29. (currently amended): The interface of claim 2, said ~~further comprising~~ rotational constraint means for preventing said interface from rotating about at least one first axis while permitting rotation of the interface about at least one second axis.

30. (currently amended): The interface of claim 2, said ~~further comprising~~ rotational constraint means for preventing said interface from rotating at a rate greater than a pre-determined maximum rotation rate.

31. (currently amended): The interface of claim 2, said ~~further comprising~~ rotational constraint means for reversing the current direction of rotation of said interface when said interface is rotating.

32. (currently amended): The interface of claim 2, said ~~further comprising~~ control means for controlling the speed of rotation of said interface, wherein the speed of

rotation of said interface depends on the position of a cursor relative to an edge of said interface.

33. (currently amended): The interface of claim 2, said ~~further comprising~~ control means for controlling the direction of rotation of said interface, wherein the direction of rotation of said interface depends on the position of a cursor relative to a point on said interface.

34. (original): The interface of claim 33 wherein said point is located at the centre of said interface.

35. (original): The interface of claim 1 further comprising means for recording a plurality of interactions and subsequently executing said recorded interactions on said interface.

36. (currently amended): The interface of claim 1 42, wherein said graphic representation is in the form of a sphere, wherein said sphere includes polar caps, and wherein said polar caps are used to view a subset of data represented in said interface.

Claim 37: (cancelled).

38. (original): The interface of claim 1 further comprising means for navigating the interface using a text-based index, wherein elements of said index are associated with said plurality of portals.

39. (original): The interface of claim 1 further comprising means for transmitting data to and receiving data from at least one other remotely-located interface through a network connection.

40. (original): The interface of claim 39 wherein said interface is used to control the operation of said at least one remotely-located interface.

41. (original): The interface of claim 39 wherein the operation of said interface is controlled by said at least one remotely-located interface.

42. (original): The interface of claim 1 further comprising means for importing data into said interface from a data source, said data being represented in said data source in a hierarchical format.

43. (original): The interface of claim 1 further comprising means for enabling objects to be moved between portals of said interface.

44. (original): The interface of claim 43 wherein objects can be dragged from one of said plurality of portals to another of said plurality of portals.

45. (original): The interface of claim 1 further comprising means for enabling objects to be dragged from an application to one of said plurality of portals.

46. (original): The interface of claim 1 wherein said interface is displayed in a window having substantially the same shape as a cross-section of said interface.

47. (original): The interface of claim 1 further comprising update means for updating content in at least one remotely-located portal when content in a portal of said interface is changed.

48. (original): The interface of claim 1 further comprising update means for updating content in at least one remote interfaces when content in said interface is changed.

49. (original): The interface of claim 1 further comprising means to search for a web page contained in one of said plurality of portals corresponding to a user-designated web address, and to display said web page to said user.